

Double crowns for Wynhood

RAJSHAHI, Nov 16: Fifth seed Joost Wynhood of the Netherlands earned double crowns in the second leg of the ITF Bangladesh-Pakistan satellite tennis circuit when he annexed the singles title beating his doubles partner Irishman Owen Casey 6-3, 6-3 in the final at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex here today, reports BSS.

Wynhood, pairing with the second seeded Casey, had clinched the doubles title defeating top seed Laurence Tieleman and Sylvano Simone of Italy 6-4, 6-4 in the final yesterday (Friday).

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was present at the concluding function as the chief guest and distributed the trophies and prize money among the winners.

The seven-day second leg of the four-leg circuit was organized by the Rajshahi Tennis

Complex. Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain, State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain, State Minister for Law Aminul Haq, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizshur Rahman Minu, chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of the Rajshahi Tennis Complex Zafar Imam and senior government officials were present.

A good number of spectators and tennis fans witnessed the 66-minute final.

Wynhood started the first set with confidence. He took control of the set with a service-break in the sixth game when the score stood at 4-2 in his favour. Wynhood got another service-break in the ninth game to take the set 6-3.

Wynhood, who sealed the match winning the second set, also, 6-3, with a service-break

in the third game, took a sweet revenge of his defeat to Casey in the Portugal satellite tennis circuit earlier this year.

Casey, the winner of the Portuguese and Israeli satellite circuits, said he had lost his concentration in the game from the very beginning.

Wynhood said, "It is the first victory in my professional career and I am too happy."

Thirty-two players including 27 players from different countries took part in the main draw of the second leg. Of them, 15 players received direct entry. Four players — two each from Bangladesh and Pakistan — got wild cards, eight got to the main draw from the qualifying round and five qualified as lucky-loser.

The third leg of the circuit, an event of the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, will be held in Lahore next week and the Masters leg will take place in Karachi from November 24-30.

PM inaugurates tennis complex

RAJSHAHI, Nov 16: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the newly-built Rajshahi Tennis Complex building here today, reports BSS.

The main building-cum-385 capacity VVIP gallery was completed at a cost of Taka 38 lakh this year to host international tennis tournaments.

The Prime Minister also went round different sections of the complex.

Earlier, on arrival at the Tennis Complex, the Prime Minister was received by the Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi Habibullah, Chairman of the Rajshahi Tennis Complex Zafar Imam and other officials of the complex. Chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman was present.

E Bengal-MSC semis today

BOMBAY, Nov 16: East Bengal topped Pool One when they drew goalless with Goa's Dempo Sports Club in the concluding match in the quarter-final league of the Rovers Cup football tournament here yesterday, reports PTI.

Earlier, Sesa Goa put out Mahindras 1-0 in the same pool and qualified for the semifinals.

East Bengal will clash with Mohammedan Sporting in the 1st semifinal on Sunday.

Baltics may play in World Cup

ZURICH, Switzerland, Nov 16: Soccer's world governing body may permit the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to participate in the 1994 World Cup, reports AP.

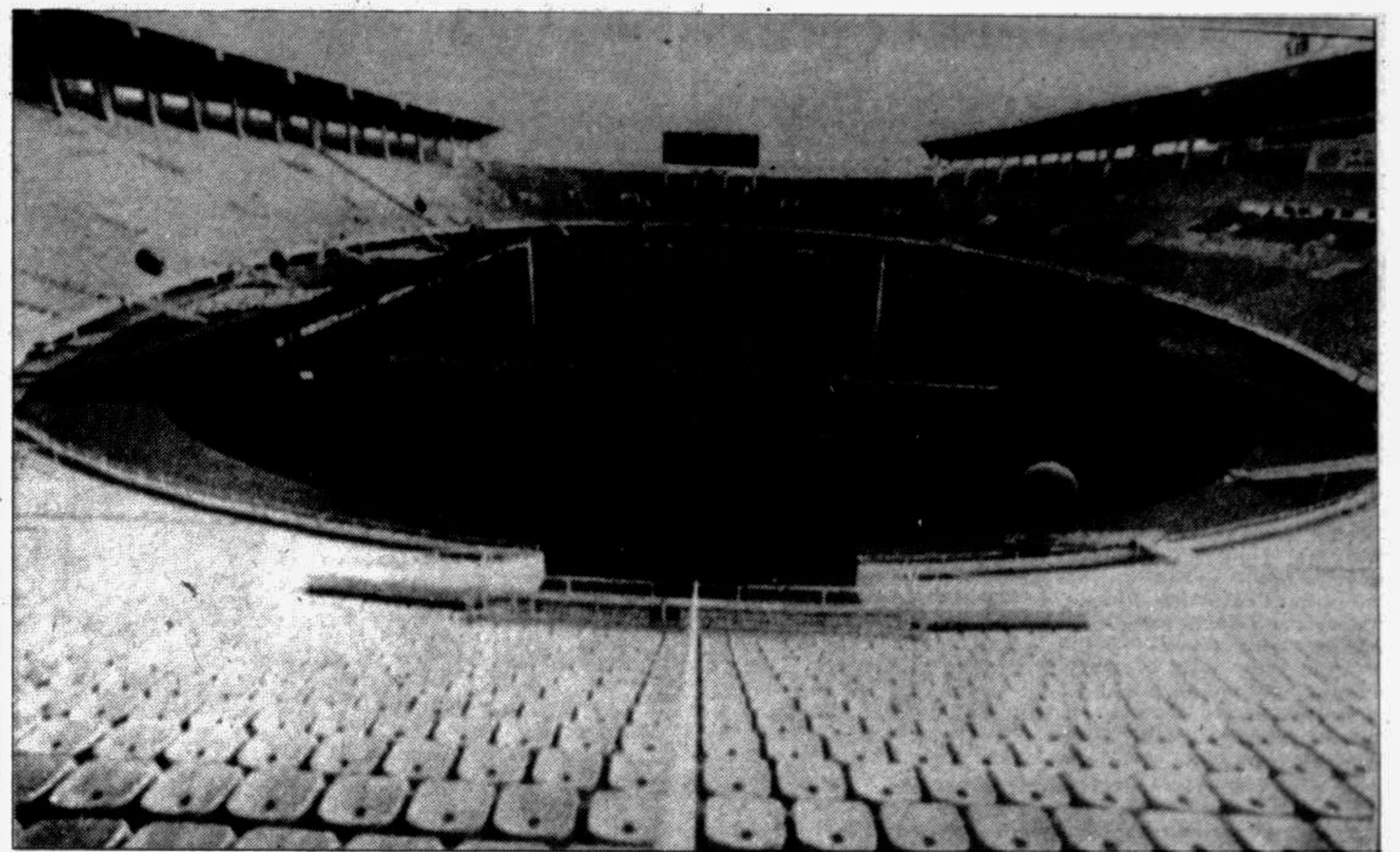
FIFA said Friday that its executive committee will consider the applications on Dec 7 a day before the World Cup qualifying draw. A total of 140 countries have entered the tournament, which will be played in the United States from June 17-July 17, 1994.

Estonia and Latvia joined FIFA on May 20, 1923, and Lithuania joined the following day. The three, which were recognized as independent countries earlier this year, never resigned their FIFA membership.

Normally, only the FIFA Congress can grant membership. However, the executive committee can grant provisional membership and is expected to do so.

Germany gets a spot in the final 24 as the defending champion and the United States gets a berth as the host nation. The rest will play a two-year series of qualifying games.

FIFA said Friday it had accepted the late entries of Mauritania; Mozambique, Swaziland and Vietnam. It has said it does not plan to consider the issue of readmitting South Africa before the draw.



General view of Guangzhou's Tianhe Stadium which is the main venue for the first FIFA women's World Cup for soccer tournament, from Nov 16 to Nov 30 in China. The opening ceremonies took place in this 67,000 seat stadium yesterday. — AFP photo

Capriati, Seles in semis

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 16: Fourth seed Jennifer Capriati easily reached the semifinals of the 250,000 dollar Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament on Friday with the help of new pair of contact lenses, reports Reuter.

In other quarter-final play top seed Monica Seles overcame a first set lapse to oust eighth seeded American Zina Garrison 7-6, 6-0 and third seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain outlasted Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 6-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Today, Seles will take on Sanchez while Capriati faces second seed Gabriela Sabatini, who advanced on Thursday, in what could well be a preview of a quarter-final at next week's Virginia Slims Championships.

Capriati should be all the more dangerous now that she can see her opponents.

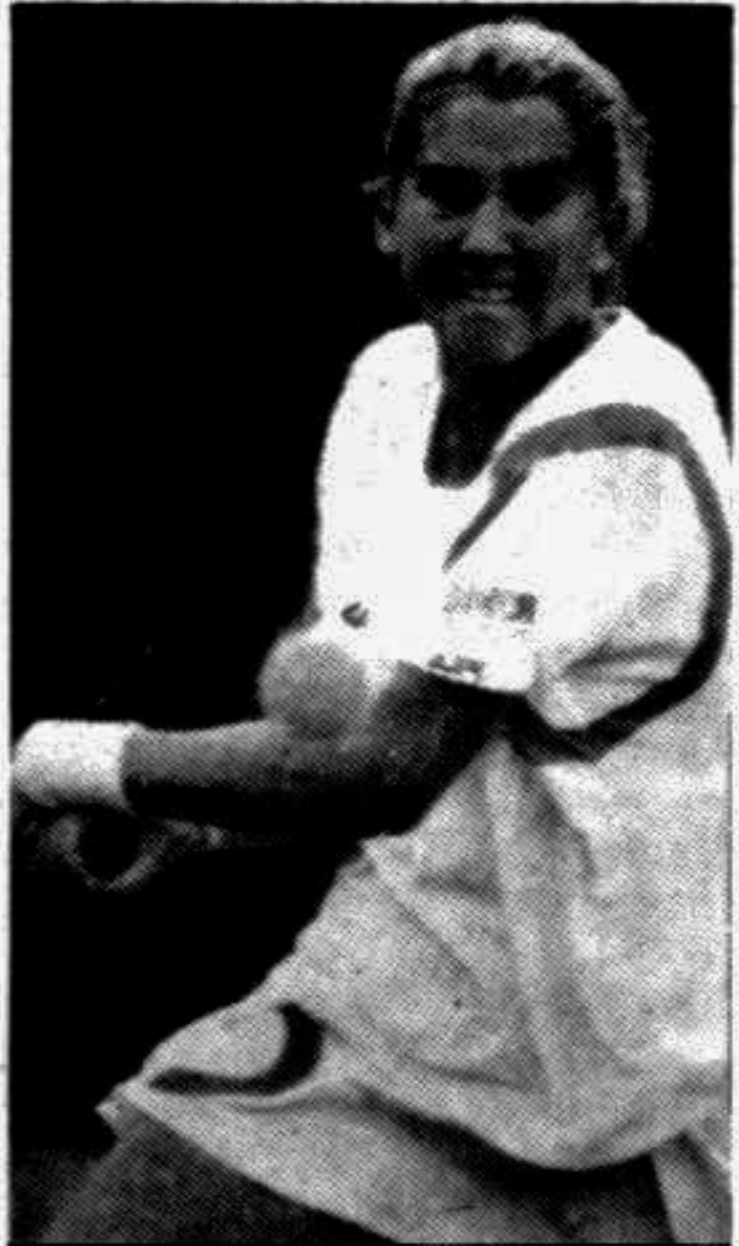
"I always noticed I couldn't see, especially nights when I was under the lights everything was blurry. I kept saying it but no one believed me," revealed Capriati who wore new glasses to her post-match interview.

"But then I failed my driver's permit test and I got my eyes checked. Now I can see the other player's face," she said with a laugh.

Capriati unveiled another surprise when she announced that Pavel Slozil will start coaching her before the Australian Open in January. Slozil and Steffi Graf parted company after five years earlier this week. Capriati recently split with coach Tom Gullinkson.

Seles let a 5-2, 40-15 first set lead slip away and found herself in a tight tiebreak with Garrison, she finally took the set on her sixth set point winning the tiebreak 8-6.

"It makes me mad at myself," Seles said of the lapse. "Here you are thinking, at least you have the first set in your



MONICA SELES seeing the shots of Switzerland's Manuccia Maleeva-Fagniere as she turned back the seventh seed 6-3, 6-2. Capriati 15, had no trouble



JENNIFER CAPRIATI pocket. The second set was all Seles as Garrison won just four points on her serve.

Keller, Maleeva in final

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Nov 16: Unseeded American Andra Keller continued her surprising run at the Jell-O tennis classic on Friday by upsetting fourth seed Radka Zrubkova of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 6-4 to advance to the final against top seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria, reports Reuter.

Maleeva who won this 150,000 dollar tournament in 1988 and 1989, needed just 55 minutes to turn back unseeded Argentine Mercedes Paz 6-2, 6-1 in the other semifinal.

The 11th-ranked Maleeva kept the aggressive Paz off balance with deep groundstrokes and precise passing shots.

Keller who runs 20 on Sunday, committed very few errors and kept the 25th-ranked Zrubkova on the defensive with accurate groundstrokes and a consistent first serve in the 51-minute match.

Keller, ranked 138th in the world, upset seventh seeded countrywoman Patty Fendick in the first round and has not dropped a set in four matches.

Zrubkova staged a potentially damaging rally from 1-3 to 3-3 in the second set by breaking Keller in the sixth game with a backhand winner.

But Keller regained her earlier form and broke the fourth seed in the next game to go ahead 4-3.

Keller who will play her first career final on the woman's tour today, called that seventh game the key to the match.

"I took it one point at a time at 3-3 and I played a good game. I was pretty sure I could keep the match from going three sets after that game", Keller said.

Nine teams will take part in the meet to be played on Robin league basis.

In the opening match the Jessore Area Team will take on the anti-aircraft artillery team.

Army hockey

COMILLA, Nov 16: The annual hockey championship of the Bangladesh Army will start at Comilla cantonment tomorrow, an ISPR press release said in Dhaka today, reports BSS.

Rutter says he was misunderstood

TORONTO, Nov 16: Manager Ray Rutter says Barrington Francis misunderstood him when he told the fighter he would have to give up his newly won World Boxing Federation featherweight title, reports AP.

Rutter says he told his fighter he would have to surrender his Canadian and Commonwealth titles if he wanted to keep the vacant WBF title he captured Wednesday night with unanimous 12-round decision over Steve Thibodeaux of Payne, La.

A report in the Toronto Sun on Friday quoted Francis as saying he was being threatened by the other organizations to relinquish the WBF title.

"We were not threatened, we were advised," Rutter said.

"Rutter said he called both organizations Thursday to advise them his fighter was forfeiting the two titles to become a world champion.

He said he was also in touch with other world bodies to tout the performance of his fighter against Thibodeaux, who had won all 13 of his previous pro fights by knockout.

"I do that as a matter of course after every fight," the veteran cornerman said. "As a manager, that's my job, to get my boy included in their rankings so he can fight for better purses.

He said the World Boxing Council, for example, didn't even have Francis ranked among its top 30 featherweights before the Wednesday fight.

"Barrington was confused," said Rutter. "He just couldn't understand why he couldn't hold all the titles."

Swedish soccer legend dead

STOCKHOLM, Nov 16: Swedish soccer legend Gunnar Gren, who helped the national side to reach the World Cup final in 1958, has died, aged 71, reports Reuter.

Gren's body was found at his home in Gothenburg on Thursday and the Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet said on Friday he had been dead for four days before being discovered.

Gren, who also played for Sweden when they won Olympic gold in 1948, had been ill for some time.

He played for several Italian Clubs, including Milan, between 1949 and 1956 and was known in Italy as "Il Professore" (the professor).

On the Swedish National team he formed part of the so-called Gre-No-Li forward line together with Gunnar Nordahl and Nils Liedholm.

By the time of the World Cup finals in Sweden in June 1958, Gren was already 37. But he scored in Sweden's 3-1 win over West Germany in the semifinals and played in the final, when Brazil beat the home side 5-2.

Gunnar Larsson, president of the Gothenburg Football Club and a board member of the Swedish Soccer Federation, said:

"There is no doubt that Gunnar Gren was one of the greatest of all time in Swedish soccer, if not the greatest."

South Africans return satisfied, India left to ponder

A M Chowdhury

The South African cricketers did not return home empty handed. It was no meagre achievement on their part to have succeeded in clinching a victory over the Indians in their first outing after 21 years of exile. The victory in the final, night-day match, was quite convincing by any standard; chasing a huge Indian total of 287 they coasted home with 20 balls to spare, losing only two wickets.

One may argue, if one is bent upon minimising the glory of the South African achievement, that since the series was already in India's pocket the Indians did not put in their best efforts. But, I am sure, very few among the 75,000 crowd at the Jawaharal-Nehru Stadium left the ground with that impression.

The 'feather-bed' wicket in that multi-purpose stadium is known for its hospitality to the batsmen and the Indians, having the first go, made their intentions clear that they were not going to leave it easy for the visitors. A total of 287 in 50 overs is big enough in any form of cricket, not to speak of at the international level. The South Africans did reach their target to register a thumping victory.

Of course, it can be said that the South African batsmen did not have the mental pressure in view of the fact that the outcome of the series was already decided. That made them all the more determined to go for it and their batting picked up the rhythm, which was lacking in the earlier matches, and they galloped to 288 for 2. They batted with the mental freedom that losing would not matter much, but a victory would do them a lot of good. This victory, on the one hand, has definitely bolstered the morale of the visitors, and, on the other, has clearly exposed the limitations of the Indian bowling attack under trying circumstances. The wicket was no doubt easy; but the target set was by no standard an easy one.

In the match at the Eden Gardens, which was won by India by three wickets, the visitors, playing their first official international cricket after long 21 years, were overawed by the situation; the huge ten million crowd adding further tremor in their emotion-packed hearts. In defeat they had two consoling factors: Kepler Wesells' pretty polished 50 and the laudable performance of Allan Donald with the ball. Generating genuine pace on the rather placid Eden Gardens turf he captured five wickets for 29.

At Owalior, chasing India's 223 in 45 overs, they fared little better with the willow and again it was Wesells' 71 which gave them something to cheer about. Donald, finding it rather difficult to control the swing in the early overs, still returned figures of three for 36. The Indian victories in both the matches were rather easy. The South Africans seemed to suffer from initial shakiness and looked to be rather out of practice for long. Cook's early exit in both the matches added grounds for the failure of the later order batsmen. Monday Yachad and Adrian Kuiper showed some promise in the second match. In the bowling line-up all, except Donald, appeared rather up and down staff. Clive Rice gave enough evidence, even at 42, of his potentials which earned him a place in the Test side 21 years ago.

But in the last match they overcame all initial inhibitions and registered a victory, as convincing as the result would show.

On the easy Delhi wicket the Indian batting looked like riding high. Shastrri, leading the side in the absence of Asharuddin, and Srikanth put up an opening stand of 86 when the latter departed with 53. Both Shastrri and Manjrekar compiled three-figure scores and the total of 287 at the end of 50 overs (an asking rate of 5.74 runs per over) seemed rather safe. But the South African openers, Cook and Wesells, made their intentions of 'do-or-die' very clear right from the start, since death did not mean much to them as the series was already lost.

The Indian bowlers found it difficult to contain them. Wesells (90), proving (90) his class, led the way and Peter Kirsten and Kuiper, remaining unbeaten with 86 and 83 respectively, made it look all so easy.

India, though victorious in the three-match series, may have only a few points of comfort, but they do have a lot to ponder. The solidity of their batting, which was shaken to some extent at Sharjah, was once again given a good shake-up by the pace of Allan Donald. The weakness of their bowling was exposed beyond any doubt. Kapil is still their number one bowler. Srinath and Prabhakar have to rise above the average to come into reckoning, and above all, the spin department lacks guile and venom. They shall have to apply themselves in all earnestness in the forthcoming encounters Down Under.

But the most redeeming feature for India is Manjrekar's coming of age. Now he is a complete batsman, having attained a class others will definitely envy. After his success at Sharjah he again proved his worth scoring 157 runs (average 78.5) in three innings demonstrating his command over the entire range of shots. Tendulkar's brilliant 52 at Calcutta was a treat for the ten million pairs of eyes, though he faded in the next two. Srikanth celebrated his recall with 88 and 53 and seems to have justified the selector's confidence in him. Taking it fairly and squarely, India, even in victory, shall have to be composed rather than jubilant. The not too strong South Africans could clinch a win in an emphatic manner and this is going to make the hearts of the Indian supporters postulate and ponder about the prospect of their team in the coming four months.

The gain for the South Africans from the three matches should be tremendous. Kepler Wesells can claim a place in any team of the present and his tour tally of 211 (average 70.3) must be a confidence booster. Donald's reputation as a genuine fast bowler has been confirmed (nine wickets at 13.3 apiece). The performances of Yachad, Kirsten and Kuiper may be considered more than ordinary.

With hard work-outs and more exposures they can look forward to the In World Cup debut with expectations for something which may not be absolutely hopeless. If they can bring about performance similar to that at Delhi the top contenders may well watch out for some surprises.

Americans crowd ATP semis

FRANKFURT, Nov 16: American defending champion Andre Agassi clinched his place in the semifinals of the ATP tour World Tennis Championships with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Wimbledon champion Michael Stich on Friday, reports Reuter.

Agassi took just 70 minutes to serve Stich his third defeat of the round-robin group stage and move towards a clash with compatriot, Jim Courier on Saturday, a repeat of this year's French Open final which Courier won.

Fellow American Pete Sampras, who qualified for the last four despite losing 6-4, 6-7, 6-1 to Germany's Boris Becker on Friday, will meet unbeaten Ivan Lendl in the other semifinal.

But the semifinal line-up was in doubt until the final group match between Agassi and Stich, providing a dramatic ending to the round-robin stage of the year-ending championships.

Becker, the three-times Wimbledon champion, still had a chance of reaching the semifinals after an athletic and aggressive performance against Sampras which delighted his home German crowd in the Frankfurt arena.

But he needed his compatriot Stich to beat Agassi to keep his hopes alive in the final match.

The Wimbledon champion, who has failed to show his best form this week, was incapable of providing a victory.

Agassi made a key break in the 12th game to take the first set 7-5 in 40 minutes. The

French Open finalist broke again in the fourth game of the second set to take a 3-1 lead and never looked back.

Courier booked his semifinal place from the other group

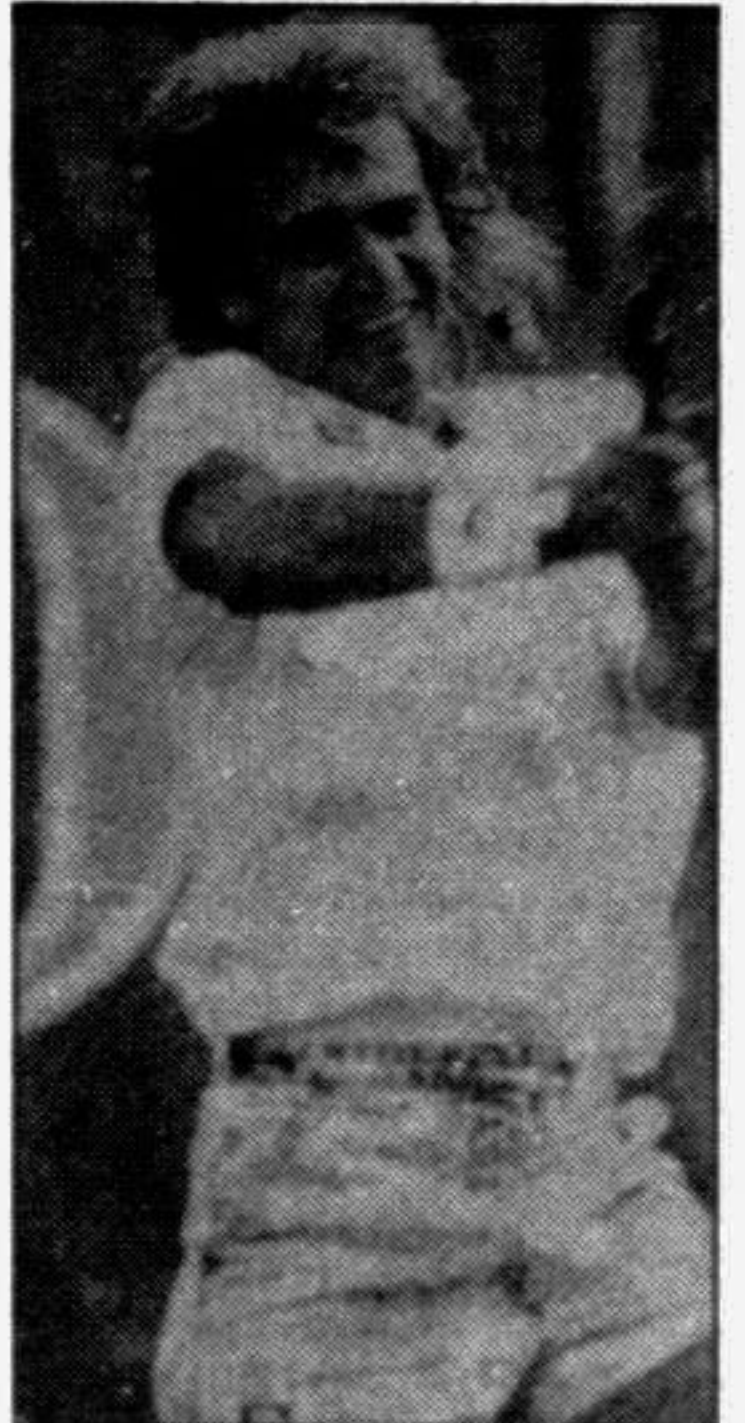


ANDRE AGASSI with a 7-6, 6-4 victory over Frenchman Guy Forget.

Lendl had gone through on Friday as the group winner after winning all three of his matches.

Agassi said he felt he was in a good position to defend his title but the field was wide open now that the event was entering the knock-out stage.

"I played extremely well. If I play as well the rest of the weekend the others will really have to earn their money," he said.



ANDRE AGASSI with a 7-6, 6-4 victory over Frenchman Guy Forget.

Wiranata's fine comeback

HONG KONG, Nov 16: A shrewd tactical switch helped Indonesian world number one Ardy Wiranata come back from a game down to beat Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen and reach the semifinals of the Hong Kong Open badminton championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

Wiranata, playing his first competition since winning the World Cup title in August, defeated the tall seventh-seeded Dane 8-15, 15-5, 15-8.

"He was very fast and good overhead in the first game," Wiranata said. "I changed my tactics and started to serve low."

In his second round match earlier on Friday Wiranata eased past Eric Lia of Norway 15-3, 15-4.

Wiranata will play fourth-seeded Liu Jun in the last four following the Chinese player's 15-11, 15-5 win over Fung Permadi of Indonesia.

Hermawan Susanto of Indonesia exacted revenge for defeats by Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen in the finals of this year's Dutch and German Opens by beating the third-seeded Dane 15-9, 14-18, 15-12 in an exciting encounter.

Susanto, seeded sixth, will play number two seed Wu Wenkat of China in the semifinals. Wu beat Lee Kwang-Jin of South Korea 15-3, 17-14.

The top two women's singles seeds, Huang Hua and Tang Jiahong of China, made the last four along with third seed Lee Heung-Soon of South Korea and England's Helen Troke.

Troke made the most of the pre-tournament withdrawal of fourth-seeded Pernille Nedergaard of Denmark to make her way through the top half of the draw, defeating China's Liu Yu-Bong 2-11, 12-11, 11-3.

SA to stage tennis tourney

FRANKFURT, Nov 16: South Africa will stage two singles events on the men's professional tennis tour next year for the first time since 1989, reports Reuter.

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) said on Friday Johannesburg would host singles events in March and October.

The ATP board agreed today to the two tournaments in 1992. We hope it will start the rebirth of the game there ATP official Graham Lovett told a news conference at the World Championships here.

South Africa, which is also hosting next week's world doubles finals at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, last staged events in 1989 in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

The ATP suspended the events in 1990 because of the political situation in the country and called for the abolition of the pillars of apartheid and the setting up of a new non-racial tennis federation.

ATP chief executive Mark Miles said changes had taken place with the recent establishment of Tennis South Africa, the republic's new non-racial national federation.

"We are happy that these changes have happened but it is not the end of the path," Miles said.

Cuban spikers clinch title

OSAKA, Japan, Nov 16: Defending champions Cuba won the World Cup women's volleyball tournament, crushing Peru 15-9, 15-12, 2-15, 15-11 in a final round match here today, reports AFP.

The unbeaten Cubans are now assured of the tournament even before their scheduled match against the Soviet spikers, who were beaten by China 3-15, 15-5, 7-15, 7-15 Saturday.

The defending champions, better positioned in set averages will remain unchanged even if they lose to the Soviet world champions in the last match of the final round.

It was Peru's third loss against one win in the final round while the Soviet Union suffered its setback against three wins.

In other final round action, the United States beat South Korea 15-10, 15-6, 15-10 for their first win. It was the Koreans' fourth straight loss.

An earlier report said:

Playing at the Osaka Castle 15th in western Japan, Irina Smirnova displayed brilliant spikes from various angles to lead the Soviet sextet to a 3-2 victory over the United States.

The set scores were 15-8, 8-15, 7-15, 15-3, 15-8.

Cuban spikers, aiming for the second straight victory, overwhelmed South Koreans to score a 3-0 (15-7, 15-8, 15-12) straight sets win.

The Cubans demonstrated accurate and strong serves and superb blocking skills.

Play here Friday made the Cuban and Soviet teams to share top spot with three wins against no losses respectively in the six-nation final league competition.

The United States and South Korea have lost three matches in a row.

Showing a variety of attacks, China outplayed Peru 3-1 (15-4, 15-11, 6-15, 15-11).

It was China's second win against one loss, while the game was Peru's second setback against one win.

The final league contest followed preliminary league competitions held in Japan.

In consolation matches, Brazil beat Spain 3-0 (15-6, 15-4, 15-2), while Germany, outplayed Canada 3-1 (15-11, 15-12, 6-15, 15-7).

Japan defeated Kenya 3-0 (15-2, 15-4, 15-2).

Moseley rocks Transvaal

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 16: West Indian import Ezra Moseley rocked Transvaal's batting when South Africa's Castle Cup First-class cricket competition opened on Friday, reports Reuter.

Ex-Test paceman Moseley, bowling for Northern Transvaal, took four for 24 on a lively pitch at Johannesburg's Wanderers Stadium on the first day of the four-day match.

Fellow pace bowler Steve Elacworthy captured five for 61 as the home side were 78 for four at the close.

In Bloemfontein, Rudolph Steyn struck 109 off 186 balls, including 15 fours, and Corrie Van Zyl made an unbeaten 85 to power Orange Free State to 360 for six against Border.

Heavy rain washed out play in the other scheduled match between Natal and Eastern Province in Durban.

The provincial teams are without some of their top players because of the South African tour of India. The national side is due back today.